5-4

Athol Sept-27th 1830.

Dear Brother,

I received your last letter in good season, & shd have answered it ere this, had not my time & attention been occupied "about many things" in these "troublous times". You gave me many precautions about the *satanic artifice*, & *fiend* like *malice* of my opposers. We have had very good specimens of the *devices* of the enemies of evangelical religion. They have strained ev- nerve to carry their points, & resorted to some of the most *illiberal* & *mean* measures. At the first town meeting, they passed the vote by a large majority, not to employ a candidate a single Sab-, unless he wd agree to exchange with all the neighboring congregational ministers in regular standing, if called to settle." I gave my refusal & the reasons of it at length, unto the committee, telling them th- I cd not take th- pledge even among orthodox ministers, & th- no candid & consistent unitarian cd do it. But it is almost useless for me to try to tell you the transactions of the last 5 weeks in this town, for I cannot in a single letter give you a proper *outline*. The orthodox tried to get up a 2d town Meeting, after some who voted for + "_pledge_" began to be ashamed of + thing. By + _management_ of + other side, + _time_ of + Meeting was deferred a _week_, until they cd have Unitarian preaching one Sab. When + Select Men got ready to issue + _warrant_ for + Meeting, + constable cd not be found to put it up; he had doubtless been got out of town by trick, so as to delay + Meeting. To cap + climax, when + Meeting assembled, made up of "rag-tag & bob-tail", some bribed by hot tody, some brought fr- out of town, & stage drivers kept at home &c, + Unitarian lawyer got up & kept + floor "till + going down of + sun," to weary out + patience of + orthodox, & drive them off home. T. orthodox saw they were in + minority, & some went off home well dosed with Unitarian _liberality_ & _courtesy_. Th- base _management_, _fixed_ several of + _wavering_ stamp, on + orthodox side. The vote fairly taken wd probably have stood, about 95 or 100, to 80 orthodox. T. _liberals_ mustered ev- thing, for they feared very much th- + town wd recall + vote about pledges as to exchanges, & then hire me as a candidate or give me a call.

The Unitarians around have felt sure of this town. Neighboring orthodox societies had almost given it up, to be in future a strong hold of Unitarianism. T. liberal party here & abroad have often boasted th. there were not more than 6 orthodox men in town. They are now thunderstruck & mad as hornets to find an "evangelical Socy" formed of about 80 members including some widows who own property; worshiping in + town house; & myself hired for 3 months. I was forbid to go to commencement, & engaged to + town for no longer period. T. opposition party are now terrible Mad to think I did not go off, as I talked of. They wd have been very glad to have me leave + orthodox band desolate. I understand they charge th. Tillotson with breaking + town to pieces. They really hoped to get + whole town under + Unitarian standard. We have on our side about ½ + property of + old Socy, more than ½ + regular worshipers, most of + females of + ch. & all + males but 3. Many of + universalists who voted for them say they will not help them settle a Unitarian, & pay treble their old tax. They feel badly enough on + unitarian side. We commenced a Saturday evening ch. prayer meeting last week. About 40 present. I am beginning to have conference meetings, & t prejudices of peo- against evening meetings are doing away. T. Spirit of prayer & faith I trust is encreasing in t ch. Some little seriousness is commencing among some others. Pray for us. We stand in great need of t silent but effectual influences of God's Spirit. Then is but 1 Male Member in t ch- under 40 years of age.

Athol Sept 28 12½

Rev. Amos A. Phelps
Hopkinton
Mass

George J. Tillotson
~~Athol~~ Sept 27th 1830

I enclose you 3 dollars. wh- I have long owed you. Come up to Petersham, & see me, & I will give you large interest. If not I [illegible] send t rest at another time. Write me soon. G. J. Tillotson

I last week had a pressing invitation fr- Berlin Con. th- handsome village, near home &c, to come on immediately & preach as a candidate 4 sabs; in order for settlement as colleague with Mr Goodrich if they were pleased. Had I not been engaged for 10 week here, I think I sh^d have gone. Shall you not come up to Wolcotts ordination at Petersham on t 20 of next month. Chickering of Bolton called on me to day. He is to be there & probably Baldwin. O come, & so spend a little time with me, & perhaps go to t Missionary Meeting at Hubbardston next day. G. J. T.